

that I have visited with, many over the past week. Yes, this is their assumption. It is their assumption that anything the White House does is coming from a place of bad faith. It is not coming from “how do we make the lives of Tennesseans and all Americans better?” It comes from a place of “how do we gut our institutions? How do we roll back; and how do we exert our control, power, control, government control, Big Government?” That is what people are seeing.

Think about it. It has taken only 11 months for the people to lose their faith in this administration. No amount of ad hoc bipartisanship is going to pull the Biden administration out of the hole that they have dug for themselves by refusing to do the bare minimum for the American people. They have had 11 months to do something, to do anything, to show us they care about more than politics. And the fact that they haven't been willing to do that has been probably the biggest failure of President Biden to date.

And I think that is probably saying something. When people look at what is happening in Washington, here is what they are seeing: They see a President who proactively kills jobs, who destroyed our potential for energy independence, who let conditions along our southern border descend into chaos rather than challenge the disgraceful racial politics pushed by radicals in the Democratic Party. And they see their elected representatives waging war on our most fundamental constitutional rights, eroding ballot integrity and providing cover for disastrous economic policies that have done nothing but kill jobs and drive prices through the roof. Yes, inflation is real.

Congressional Democrats have squandered an entire year creating an illusion of enthusiasm for their broken agenda, which is a feat they were only able to accomplish by refusing to acknowledge the damage caused by their reckless tax-and-spending spree.

If they had even pretended to prioritize appropriations, the debt ceiling, or passing a fiscally responsible budget, they might have had a chance to salvage a little bit of credibility. But, oh, no, that is not what they did.

The American people are living in the real world, where debt burdens matter, and you can't fire up a money printer if you blow your budget or have a wish list you can't afford.

What the American people see isn't just a refusal to govern, but a refusal to acknowledge that these problems matter. These things actually matter to people: how much we spend matters; being job and business friendly matters; integrity, it matters.

For almost a year, the Biden administration has been hiding from allegations that the Obama-Biden Justice Department spied on an incoming President.

Back in August, I led a letter with more than 40 of my Republican colleagues demanding an update on the

status of Special Counsel Durham's inquiry into the Crossfire Hurricane investigation.

The American people have been waiting a long time to see those results. There is nothing the administration can do to force them to accept or even tolerate the malice and corruption we know fueled the actions of the Obama-Biden Justice Department, and equal justice matters to the American people.

But I suppose it is too much to ask that our chief law enforcement officers stay true to the law when the President himself has been so preoccupied with this reckless agenda that it appears he forgot about his role of being Commander in Chief.

In terms of governance, national defense is about as fundamental as it gets. And here we are, a week before Thanksgiving, and just now we are getting the NDAA to the floor.

I, along with other members of the Armed Services Committee, negotiated and deliberated our way through 143 amendments—many of those bipartisan—and we approved the final product 23 to 3.

Now, that is about as bipartisan as it gets. But you haven't seen that come to the floor. Even the House Democrats, working on their own version of the bill, have had enough with the Senate, and they are saying so publicly. They understand, just as we do, that this country will have to be able to defend itself.

We should be doing all we can to prioritize defense policy because you can be sure our competitors and our adversaries abroad are doing all they can to elevate themselves, to defend themselves.

Tonight, President Biden is scheduled to meet virtually with Xi Jinping and to discuss “ways to responsibly manage the competition” between the U.S. and China.

Only it is really not competition. They are our adversary. We don't need a summit to figure out a response to Chinese aggression. The solution is staring us in the face: If you want to manage the competition, you set yourself up to win the fight.

That is how you manage your competitors. That is it. No secret.

And I don't discount the importance of diplomacy, but Xi Jinping and his lieutenants in the Chinese Communist Party have proven time and again that their standing operating procedure is rooted in a desire to control the world—to control the world—order, rather than to work within it. Competition they are not interested in. Dominance, yes, they are interested in.

If we start engaging with China from anything other than a position of strength, we will lose. And right now, Joe Biden projects nothing but weakness.

For almost 3 years, I have chronicled in excruciating detail the war the Chinese Communist Party is waging against our Nation's ideals. I have done

this in hopes that my colleagues across the aisle would understand that delaying action or maintaining the status quo will not save us from our most beligerent and dangerous adversary.

And yet, somehow, seeing it all laid out in black and white wasn't even enough to get action. Seeing the evidence of genocide in Xinjiang wasn't enough.

Reading verified reports that Beijing manipulated multiple international organizations in their shameless coverup of the origins of COVID-19—that wasn't enough.

Listening to Chinese officials threaten our pharmaceutical and medical supply chains—not enough.

Watching the Chinese Communist Party attack freedom fighters in Hong Kong and threaten our friends in Taiwan wasn't enough.

Seeing the pernicious effects of the Belt and Road Initiative on the global balance of power wasn't enough.

Not even the knowledge that Beijing gets closer than ever to testing the limits of our nuclear deterrence capabilities—that was not enough.

Madam President, I yield to the majority leader.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I thank my colleague from Tennessee for yielding, and in a few minutes, I intend to take the first procedural step to begin consideration of the annual Defense policy bill. With cooperation, the Senate can and should move through this important legislation that we attend to each year.

This year, we will amend the Defense bill to include the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act, the historic manufacturing and innovation bill that the Senate passed earlier this year on a strong bipartisan basis and which will help tackle our Nation's supply chain crisis. Our supply chain crisis needs attending to, and we cannot wait. Members from both sides of the aisle have expressed interest in getting this done.

Passing USICA would be an essential far-reaching step that Congress could take to help fight inflation, help increase American workers' wages, and relieve strained supply chains, particularly with regard to the current devastating chip shortage that is hurting the auto industry, the tech industry, and so many other industries. We cannot allow us to become dependent on foreign chips, especially when we do—we do the groundbreaking technology.

We are also working with the Speaker and our colleagues in the House and Republican colleagues in the Senate to find a path forward to get this important legislation over the finish line before the end of the year.

It is also my intention to have an amendment vote on the bipartisan legislation, repealing the 2002 Iraq war AUMF. This measure was reported on a bipartisan basis out of the Foreign Relations Committee earlier this year,